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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gen. Buyukanit: We cannot Ignore the Problems in Iraq -  
Hurriyet  
Buyukanit: "The Military Should not be Used for Political  
Ends" - Milliyet  
President Sezer Did Not Stay for the Wedding - Sabah  
PM Erdogan's Son Married in Istanbul - Turkiye  
5 Witnesses for the Wedding - Milliyet  
Green Light for Heybeliada Theological School - Aksam (8/9)  
Patriarch Bartholomew Requests Reopening of Halki Seminary -  
Hurriyet (8/9)  
FM Gul: "AKP Will Win Local Elections" - Sabah  
Government Allows NASCO to benefit from Foreign Exchange  
Amnesty - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

General Buyukanit: Iraq is More Risky Today - Radikal  
The Year's Wedding Brought Three Ministers Together - Zaman  
EU Wedding - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

General Buyukanit's Farewell Party: All papers report on the  
farewell cocktail party given by Deputy Chief of General  
Buyukanit for Ankara journalists yesterday. Buyukanit said  
that "Turkey can not remain indifferent to problems in  
neighboring Iraq. Although Iraq is riskier today than ever  
before, the military is well aware of its responsibilities.  
The Troop deployment will be a political decision. No one  
should attempt to manipulate the military for political  
purposes." "Vatan" notes that the statements by Buyukanit  
are particularly important, as he is expected to become the  
next Chief of the General Staff in 2006. The General  
commented that a system of judicial review on decisions of  
the High Military Council (YAS), an idea proposed by PM  
Erdogan, would violate the constitution. Buyukanit stressed  
that the military remains concerned about EU harmonization  
reforms and has communicated these concerns to the  
government.

Prime Minister's Son Married in Istanbul: All papers cover  
the wedding of Prime Minister Erdogan's son Bilal. The  
ceremony took place in the Lutfi Kirdar Congress Building in  
Istanbul. Around 10,000 invitees, including Italian Prime  
Minister Berlusconi and Albanian Prime Minister Nano, were  
in attendance. President Sezer attended a Philosophy  
congress in the same building yesterday morning, but it was  
noticed that he did not attend the wedding. TGS Chief  
General Ozkok did not attend the wedding but sent flowers.  
Extraordinary security measures were taken all day around  
the congress building.

NASCO Holding: "Hurriyet" draws attention to a 'scandal'  
created by the current government. During former PM  
Ecevit's administration, the assets of NASCO Holding were  
frozen in accordance with the UN decision to block assets of  
terrorist organizations and those who finance them. NASCO's  
assets were frozen because of its alleged links to Al-Qaida.  
However, with the new Foreign Exchange Law, published in the  
official Gazette on August 6, the AKP government has allowed  
NASCO to regain control of its assets.

## EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Cyprus

### "The future of Iraq"

Kamuran Ozbir commented in the nationalist Ortadogu (8/11): "Discussion about the future of Iraq requires a through analysis of the Saddam era. Saddam's policy for northern Iraq for 30 years was basically to convert all northern Iraqis into Arabs. The oil-rich Arab tribes in south and central Iraq were transferred to the north, and non-Arab minorities -- Turkmen, Kurds and Assyrians -- were all forced to leave the area. The agony did not stop there, because after the demise of the Baath regime a campaign has been initiated to convert the region's Turkmen into Kurds. . Turkmen are the third largest ethnic group in Iraq following the Arabs and Kurds. Kurdish groups still claim authority over the oil-rich Kirkuk region. After the collapse of Saddam regime, Kurds declared Kirkuk as the center of Kurdistan, and they deployed their fighters there with the permission of coalition forces. Yet Turkmen parties declared Kirkuk as their territory and remained there as well. Tension and confusion remains in this area. The issue can only be resolved by taking the facts into account. Terror or military force will not settle anything. It seems the region will enjoy peace once all Iraqis are given their Constitutional rights."

### "Customs Union with Northern Cyprus: A fiasco"

Erdal Guven criticized in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (8/10): "The AKP government must realize the fact that the worst-case scenario for Cyprus, especially for Northern Cyprus, is 'no-solution' approach that has been used up to now. Turkey so far has launched more than 20 initiatives to bolster the Northern Cypriot economy, including the most recent Turkey-Northern Cyprus Custom Union agreement. All of these efforts have failed, and the latest one is doomed to fail as well. The salvation for northern Cyprus is through a lasting settlement on the island followed by EU membership."

DEUTSCH